

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and
listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-25 (canceled).

26 (currently amended). A method of selectively connecting a portable electronic control and/or monitoring unit movable by a user to at least one machine or machine component selectable by the user ~~in~~ from a plurality of machines or machine components for control and/or monitoring by the user, for example robots, wherein a ~~clear~~ link or log-on connection between the control and/or monitoring unit and a point on the selected machine or machine component is set up by means of interfaces for a selected wireless direction-finder of the point or by means of transmitters and/or receivers tuned to the transmission range or reception range, having a limited, localized operating range and, once the connection has been acknowledged and established, a planned control and/or monitoring of the selected machine or the machine component is managed via another, standard data transmission means, for example a hard-wired network and/or a wireless link between the control and/or monitoring unit and the ~~selected~~ machine or ~~selected~~ machine component, the connection being managed by the

user simply by actively accepting/acknowledging the potential connection by means of an operating element on the control and/or monitoring unit.

27 (previously added). Method as claimed in claim 26, characterized in that clear signaling at least on the respective machine and/or on the control and/or monitoring unit indicates when a link or connection has been established.

28 (currently amended). Method as claimed in claim 26, characterized in that an active connection or log-on of a control and/or monitoring unit to one or more machines or machine components can not be terminated except by a deliberate or conscious takes place upon log on off by the user, who must operate at least one control element of an input device of the control and/or monitoring unit or a control device of the machine or the machine component.

29 (currently amended). Method as claimed in claim 26, characterized in that the link or log-on connection is cyclically checked against a valid log-on process and control and/or monitoring of the machine is terminated either automatically or by the user, who simply quits by selecting the a log-off option, if the selected link or log on connection goes down or is interrupted.

30. (Currently amended) Method as claimed in claim 26, characterized in that, during the log-on procedure of the control and/or monitoring unit, an identification number or code is transmitted and acknowledgment is returned, via the standard data transmission means ~~or via the same wireless transmission channel~~, by the distant point or machine receiving this code, which also checks to ensure that the control and/or monitoring unit transmitting the code is valid.

Claims 31-33 (canceled).

34 (previously added). Method as claimed in claim 26, characterized in that the functional and operating range of the transmitters and/or receivers lies within a close immediate vicinity around the machines and/or around the control and/or monitoring unit.

Claim 35-50 (canceled).

51 (new). Method as claimed in claim 26, characterised in that the standard transmission means is a hard-wired network.

52 (new). Method as claimed in claim 26, characterised in that the standard transmission means is a wireless link between the control and/or monitoring unit and the selected machine or

machine component.

53 (new). A portable electronic control and/or monitoring unit movable by a user, comprising an input device with several operating elements and having at least one first interface to at least one control unit for one or more machines or machine components, second interface for a wireless connection system to a co-operating point in or on the machine or machine component to be controlled and/or monitored for enabling the user to establish a clear connection or link between the control and/or monitoring unit and the one or more machines or machine components selected by the user from a plurality of machines or machine components to be controlled and/or monitored, and an operating element on the input device for enabling the user to selectively establish and/or terminate an operative connection via the at least one first interface.

54 (new). Control and/or monitoring unit as claimed in claim 53, characterised in that the interface has a transmitter with a directional transmission characteristic.

55 (new). Control and/or monitoring unit as claimed in claim 53, characterised in that the interface has a transmitter with a locally restricted transmission characteristic or a transmission characteristic that is restricted to the area in

the immediate vicinity.

56 (new). Control and/or monitoring unit as claimed in claim 53, characterised in that the distant point comprises a receiver responding to the transmitter.

57 (new). Control and/or monitoring unit as claimed in claim 53, characterised in that the distant point comprises a receiver with a defined, limited reception sensitivity.

58 (new). Control and/or monitoring unit as claimed in claim 53, characterised in that the interface of the control and/or monitoring unit comprises a receiver for signals transmitted by the transmitter in the vicinity of a machine.

59 (new). Control and/or monitoring unit as claimed in claim 53, characterised in that the connection link between the transmitter and the receiving is one-way.

60 (new). Control and/or monitoring unit as claimed in claim 53, characterised in that the interface is provided as an optical transmitter for infrared signals or laser light.

61 (new). Control and/or monitoring unit as claimed in claim 53, characterised in that the interface is provided as a

transmitter for electromagnetic waves.

62 (new). Control and/or monitoring unit as claimed in claim 53, characterised in that the co-operating transmitter and receiver are provided as a transponder system.

63 (new). Control and/or monitoring unit as claimed in claim 53, characterised in that the interface is provided as an acoustic transmitter, for example for ultrasonic signals.

64 (new). Control and/or monitoring unit as claimed in claim 53, characterised in that the interface is provided with in the form of contact pins and/or a contact rod or by means of an electrical contact surface with a complementary counter-contact on the machine to be controlled and/or monitored.

65 (new). Control and/or monitoring unit as claimed in claim 53, characterised in that a distance-measuring device and/or by a position sensor is provided for detecting the distance of the control and/or monitoring unit relative to a machine or a machine component.

66 (new). Control and/or monitoring unit as claimed in claim 53, characterised in that the interface is provided as a transmitter and/or receiver for signals to and/or from a co-

operating distant point or transmitter and/or receiver, which is disposed in the immediate vicinity of the machines to be controlled and/or monitored.